



# IDEST Trainer

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## Volume 20, Issue No 4

Well here we are eight months down the line from Lock-down and today the PM is taking us back in to Lock-down. I am not sure we will ever return to the 'normal' life style we knew up until March this year, but who knows.

I feel that IDEST should be providing you with some form of 'post-COVID' return to work guidelines.

In this issue I am going to suggest some guidelines for the Training Centres plus a few other items to mention.

## COVID Guidelines

There are three centres currently providing training to students. This is great news and very encouraging. They have identified that training is still in demand and set about sorting a safe environment.

My thanks go to Jim Mills, John Timperley and Dave Vincent for sending me their procedures and guidelines.

Checking the student database, I find 2020 is not such a disaster as I was expecting. We still have two more months until the end of 2020 and no doubt dive centres will start considering providing their own cylinder inspection and testing services, so training will be ever needed.

Attached to this newsletter is a set of guidelines, based on those I have kindly received and some common sense. If you want to get back into training, adopting these will be a good step in the right direction. The requirements are simple and affordable.

## Virtual e-training

I have had several requests for a training visit to overseas locations since January. I have done quite a few of these events and the demand is still there. The problem is moving from one COVID category country to another and back again. Returning to the UK would undoubtedly entail 14 days self-isolation. Most inspectors are not prepared to do that as it would restrict their lifestyle.

As a result, I am looking into providing e-learning training. This will be through the use of videos, on-line theory assessments and virtual practical workshop training.

It will be a simple exercise to video a theory lesson presentation or use zoom meeting, followed by the theory assessment. Once the theory assessment is marked and passed, the training can continue with a video practical presentation.

The next stage is the mimic by the student of those practical skills. This could be done using a media such as Zoom or Microsoft Team. The student is captured on live video and guided through the skills.

A lot more research is needed but a pilot project is worth considering in view of the current climate. If it proves successful then perhaps the IDEST Training Centres could consider using a similar system.

If you are interested in getting involved with this project, please contact me and discuss how.

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## Visual Assessment Course - should it continue?

The number of students that have completed this course over the years is very low. The materials need some updating as was gratefully identified by Jim Mills.

### Is it worth maintaining this course?

When we started producing training courses back in 2016, this seemed the obvious course to start with. However, branches do not appear interested, dive centres likewise. Students want to gain more specific training that will lead them to becoming a technician. They want to inspect and test diving and breathing gas cylinders.

**Please give this some thought** and let me know if you think there is a market for this course. If not, then I will consider scrapping this material.

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## IDEST Tutorials

Earlier this year I thought IDEST should provide a series of tutorials on certain aspects of the job. These aspects being those that technicians have occasionally had issues with.

These are aspects that inspectors have identified while arranging an inspection or actually on the inspection.

The first that came to mind was '**Calibration Certificates**'. So, in May I produced the '**IDEST Tutorial No 1**'.

It consists of a PowerPoint presentation that was recorded using Zoom. A meeting with myself in effect. It goes through the various types of certificate that you are likely to receive. It explains which are accepted by IDEST and which that are not.

It looks at a valid calibration certificate and explains the content and why it should be there. It covers the many ways that valid information can be presented and how to read and understand it.

It concludes with advice as to what to look for when you receive your gauges and calibration certificates back from the laboratory.

I have added it to the Instructor Resources folder so you can take a look. The quality is not as high as I would like but your feedback would be appreciated.

There are plans to produce more. Next will probably be '**Thread Gauges**'.

### Other suggestions much appreciated

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## Suggested COVID guidelines

The following advice was sent through from centres currently running events and I feel the least I can do is forward this to you all. I have been given permission by the centres involved and I am sure something similar could help solve your training issues.

1. Only two students on a course. This to help social distancing.
2. Face coverings available for when working closer than the two metres.
3. Hand sanitiser available at all times.
4. Rubber gloves available for handling gauges, cylinders etc.
5. Gloves worn at all times when instructor and students are touching the same tools and equipment.
6. All equipment that will be used during the course, including work surfaces, chairs etc., are cleaned and sanitised.
7. A questionnaire asking the relevant COVID questions on student's health.

### To be COVID secure you need to

- Keep small groups. Possibly as small as two.
- If you want to supply drinks, everyone keeps the same cup all day.
- Each person makes their own tea or coffee whilst wearing gloves and a mask.
- Lunchtime break and end of day wipe down class room, kitchen and toilet areas.

### In the classroom

- When handling the valves and cut down cylinders they need to wear gloves and a mask.
- Lunchtime and end of day wipe down valves and cylinders.

### In the workshop

- During all practical sessions, candidates must wear gloves and a mask especially when using gauges and test rig and stamping.
- Each person has their own a cylinder and valve to strip down and test.
- At lunchtime and end of day wipe down all areas.

Jim Mills also provided me with a pre-course questionnaire that I am sure would be seen as good business practice. I have attached it as a separate document with this newsletter.

My thanks to Jim Mills, John Timperley and Dave Vincent for their suggestions and help.

## IDEST Training Centres update

This is the current list of Training Centres:

- **Bristol Channel Diving Services, Cardiff. TC001**
- **M60 Scuba, Stockport. TC003**
- **Sunderland Scuba Centre, Sunderland. TC004**
- **C & R Testing, Sowerby Bridge. TC007**
- **D V Diving, Northern Ireland. TC009**
- **J M Scuba Services, Leicester. TC010**
- **Moray Firth Dive Centre, Moray. TC011**
- **Discover Diving, IOM. T012**

Training Centres leaving since the last issue of TRAINER

- **NONE**
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